MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

August 2021 – Our monthly MNS meeting for August will be held on Thursday, August 19, beginning at 6 PM. The program for the meeting will be show & tell from the ANA show in Rosemont. Safety precautions are being followed. NEWS FLASH—NEW LOCATION: OUR OCTOBER 3 COIN SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THE SHERATON BROOKIELD. SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS.

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Secretary:	James Kubley	**Treasurer:**	Chris Kantak
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Trustee '17-'19:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '18-'20:**	Gary Bieringer
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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings in 2021 will be held at 6 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.

August Coin of the Month: **This month, we offer the two coin 1986-S Liberty Coin set, with a proof silver dollar and a proof clad half. Beautiful coins in pristine condition in original box. Starting bid is $35, which is less than Redbook value.**

August 2021 MNS President's Message

As discussed at our last meeting and prominently announced in this newsletter, MNS finally has a new location nailed down for our October 3rd show. The Brookfield Sheraton has given us a terrific bargain on this space, which is the perfect fit for a show of our size. With raffle tickets being printed and all the dealer tables still spoken for the show is already shaping up to be a success. Please spread the word to everyone you know about this change in venue for our show, and let us hope it will be bigger and better than any year in recent memory.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available again at the August meeting, so please take an hour (or two) out of your day to help work the front tables at the show. Set-up and teardown should be minimal since the hotel takes care of all table placement and table coverings. As with anytime changes are made I am sure there will be flaws that we encounter, so please bear with us and we will learn for next year. We hope to hold our show at this same location in the coming years, but it will have to be pushed back to the second week-end of November in order to take advantage of significantly better rates.

Thanks so much to Paul and Chris for making this dream of a 2021 MNS show a reality. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure that a show of this nature even gets off the ground. Their hard work and dedication to the Club is extra appreciated this year!

By the time we all convene again on August 19th for our monthly meeting the ANA's World Fair of Money will have recently concluded. I feel bad that we won't be able to travel to the show as a small group this year as we have done in the past, but I hope we will be able to do something similar in future years, if not next year. In spite of this, hopefully many of our members will still find time to spend a day at the show. With the amount of lectures, exhibits, and dealers at a show of that size, you could easily spend multiple days on the bourse. Plan to bring stories of your show experience and any amazing purchases to the meeting for show and tell.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

NEW 2021 COIN SHOW LOCATION

The October 3 MNS coin show has a new location: the Sheraton Brookfield at 375 S. Moorland Rd., Brookfield, just off I-94 near Brookfield Square Mall. We will still need several volunteers to set up the room and to man the show. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at the August 19 meeting. -- LAS

MN$ 2021

Schedule

Monthly meetings for 2021 are ready to commence. Due to changes at Mayfair Mall, our meetings will run from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 21:	General Business/Show & Tell
Feb 18:	General Business/Show & Tell
March 18:	General Business/Show & Tell
April 15:	General Business/Show & Tell
May 20:	Spring Auction
June 17:	Show & Tell-Non Numismatic
July 15:	New Show Venue Announcement/Show & Tell
Aug 19:	Open/ANA Show Recap
Sept 16:	Open
Oct 21:	Raffle Tickets Drawing
Nov 18:	Autumn Auction
Dec 16:	Christmas Party/Office Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2021 are $10. Please pay Treasurer Chris K. at the next meeting, or they can be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886.** Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, and helpers to work at events. MNS will also reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

2021 Numismatic Events

Aug. 10-14:	ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL
Oct. 3:	**MNS Coin Show (at SHERATON BROOKFIELD) (9-4 PM) 375 S. Moorland Rd.**
Oct. 24:	Elgin Coin Club Show Holiday Inn at 495 Airport Rd. Elgin, IL (8-3 PM)
Apr. 22-23, '22:	SSCC Coin Show, Four Points Sheraton Airport
Apr. 23, 2022	40th Annual MNS Scout Clinic at Four Points Sheraton Airport

Refreshment Schedule

May 20:	Justin P.
June 17:	Justin P.
July 15:	Gary B.
Aug 19:	Open
Sept 16:	Open
Oct 21:	Open
Nov 18:	Open
Dec 16:	Christmas Party

MNS OCTOBER 3, 2021 COIN SHOW

NEW LOCATION: The Club will be holding our October 3, 2021 coin show at the Sheraton Brookfield (375 S. Moorland Rd). This is a change from previous years. It is located just off I-94 south of Brookfield Square Mall.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes
June 17, 2021

President Justin Perrault called the 1017th meeting of the MNS to order at 6:08 pm. There were 17 members & 0 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Tom R, Howard T, Steve J, Tom C, James K, Tom S, Chris K, Dave H, John B, and Paul K.

Coin of the Month: There was no coin of the month for auction in July

Minutes: The minutes for June 2021 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chris K. reported that March showed net receipts of $85.00 plus a transfer from the Club's Vanguard account and $713.58 in net disbursements for a positive net cash flow of $172.29.

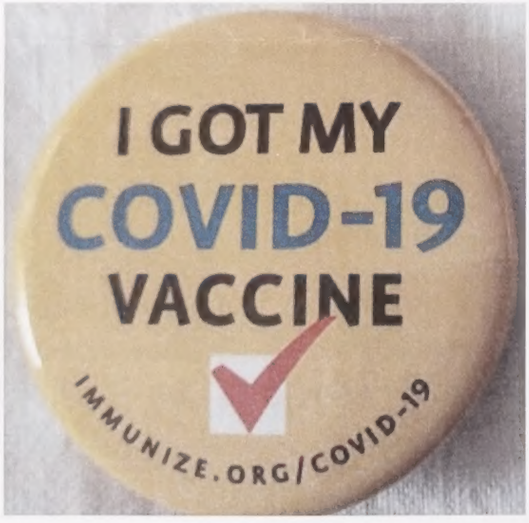
Correspondence: Bank Statement and Coins Magazine

Milwaukee Numismatic Coin Show – The 2021 MNS coin show is now set in stone. The show will be on October 3, 2021, at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel: Brookfield Ballroom from 9:00am until 4:00pm with a $2 admission and 75+ dealer tables. The address is 375 S. Moorland Road / Brookfield, WI / 53005. Please help the club spread the news and that it is a new location. Please help the Club by signing up to volunteer and see John B for raffle tickets.

Show & Tell Non-Numismatic: Justin P – Tippecanoe Bank Photo, Bruce B. – Two Medals: Renaissance and Modern + coin of the month related item. Winston Churchill Commemorative Crown, John B – Circulation Dimes, Jordan H – Pieces of the original White House.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 7:22 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by James Kubley



1933 Double Eagle Smashes Record with $18.9 Million Price Tag

(Image courtesy Sotheby's.)

The only example of the 1933 double eagle gold coin that is legal to own changed hands for $18.9 million at an auction conducted by Sotheby's New York June 8.

The fabled and elusive coin, owned by luxury shoe designer Stuart Weitzman, smashed the existing world record, nearly doubling the price for the most valuable coin.

Following competitive bidding, it achieved the record price after 3-1/2 minutes, with three bidders in the room and one on the telephone vying for this only legal example.

The sale marks the second time the coin has set a world record as the most valuable coin, having sold at Sotheby's New York in 2002 for $7.59 million in an auction conducted on behalf of the United States government following a landmark legal settlement, which for the first and only time, authorized the private ownership of this 1933 double eagle alone.

In this most recent auction, the coin was presented as part of The Three Treasures Collection, accompanied by the sole-surviving example of a British Guiana one-cent magenta stamp and a 24-cent "Inverted Jenny" plate block. Also owned by Weitzman, the items hammered at $8.3 million and $4.9 million, respectively.

"Today's sale marked a historic moment in the history of stamp and coin collecting – and one that I think will not be surpassed for a long time, if ever," said Richard Austin, Sotheby's global head of books and manuscripts. "The Stuart Weitzman collection represented the most prized and sought after stamp and coin specimens known to exist, each with deep histories and remarkable stories that have together captured the imaginations of collectors and the general public alike for decades. To offer any one of these pieces at auction would be a milestone in its own right, but to offer them together in this special sale was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The uniqueness of this moment is a testament to Stuart's passion and dedication to his childhood ambition of acquiring these prized pieces – and we hope this sale inspires other collectors to start their own journey."

A life-long philatelist and numismatist, Weitzman grew up collecting stamps and coins from an early age in Queens, N.Y., and he fulfilled his boyhood dream of acquiring the finest stamps and coins beginning with the double eagle in 2002 and the British Guiana stamp and "Inverted Jenny" plate block in 2014.

"It has been an honor to be a custodian of these three legendary treasures and it fills me with great joy to have fulfilled a childhood dream of bringing these remarkable pieces together into one collection," said Weitzman. "I started coin collecting to pass the time in a full leg cast at the age of 12, and later became interested in stamps when my older brother left behind the stamp book he'd started when he went to college. The passion for collecting took root immediately, and today truly marked the culmination of a life's work. I'm delighted that the proceeds of the sale will help support a number of charitable causes and educational endeavors that are near and dear to me."

Among the organizations benefitting from the sale proceeds is The Weitzman Family Foundation, which has supported medical research and higher education such as Boston Children's Hospital and the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. Other major foundation projects include a museum in Madrid, the first of its kind, devoted to Spanish-Judeo history. ◆

Buy the Book

By Lee Hartz

There is an old saying in numismatics – "Buy the Book Before the Coin".

The unwritten corollary is that you actually read the book!

I can give you several examples of how that has helped me as a collector.

When I was at the University of Wisconsin, I borrowed the Adams-Woodin book on U. S. Pattern Coins from the State Historical Society Library. I studied the Half Dollars of the early 1860's, with the various proposals that eventually became "In God We Trust" as we know it today.

Several years later I was at a coin show in Boston, Mass. I was looking at a dealer's stock of half dollars, looking to fill in my Bust half collection. I found an 1863 Seated Liberty half, which turned out to be a pattern, with a variety of the motto that I didn't have (I had already purchased a pattern from Dave Bowers' Empire Coins). The dealer had no idea.

When I was on active duty in the Navy, I purchased a copy of Kurt Jaeger's *Die Deutschen Reichsmunzen Seit 1871* (The German Reich's Coins Since 1871), basically the German equivalent of our Red Book. The book is in German, and I don't read German, but the pictures and the date/mint charts and mintages were easy enough to understand. I ended up memorizing most of the good coins and their mintages.

Fast-forward a couple of years, I was stationed at the Navy Regional Finance Center at Great Lakes, Illinois.

While at Great Lakes, I attended several major coin shows in downtown Chicago. At one of these shows I found a coin that I recognized from Jaeger's book – an 1889-E 5 Mark piece from the Kingdom of Saxony, commemorating the 800th anniversary of the founding of the ruling family. The mintage was 706 pieces. I knew that this was a major find, and I bought the coin on lay-away (it was $235, and I didn't have that much with me). The dealer was a well-known, reputable dealer from Philadelphia. After 3 payments, I received the coin in the mail.

At a German auction in 2008 a similar piece (but not as nice as mine) was auctioned off for the US equivalent of $6,000.

At another show that spring (1968) I found a piece from the German State of Hesse, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the ruling monarch's reign. The mintage was 1,333. I was able to purchase that one for $250. One of these pieces was auctioned off at this year's ANA (August, 2019) for about $6,000.

So you can see that buying, and reading, the book can be very beneficial.###

The Carson City Mint

By R.W. Julian

Carson City Mint

IN THE 1970s, when the General Services Administration sold the last of Morgan dollars from a once-vast government hoard, interest from most collectors centered on high-grade specimens from the Carson City Mint. Perhaps because of its low mintages, or that it was a true mint of the Old West, there has always been strong demand for coins with the mintmark CC. It all began with the California Gold Rush of the late 1840s.

Not all '49ers made it to California. Some stopped on the way to try their hand at prospecting. In 1850, gold was discovered in what is now Nevada, but the results were disappointing and the bulk of the gold was still found in northern California. In 1859, however, all of this was to change with the discovery of silver.

Two hard-luck miners, Peter O'Reilly and Patrick McLaughlin, had dug a well for water and discovered silver at the bottom of it by sheer luck. They staked out their claim but just at that moment Henry Comstock came by to declare that he had already found silver at that spot; Comstock was just bluffing his way in, but O'Reilly and McLaughlin decided that splitting three ways was better than nothing if a protracted lawsuit tied up the claim for years.

Their mine, called the Ophir in honor the Biblical name for a place rich in gold, soon attracted Eastern money. The three sold out with McLaughlin taking the least at only $3,500. Comstock got $10,000 while O'Reilly held out for $50,000. McLaughlin died years later in poverty while Comstock committed suicide in 1870.

O'Reilly, of the three men, had the most interesting life after the discovery. He began to consult spirit mediums, who advised him that a certain mountain was just full of gold if he sank a shaft in the right place. O'Reilly followed directions, but found only worthless rock; he died insane a few years later.

Nevada Territory was organized in 1861 due to the large influx of miners after the discovery of the Comstock Lode, as it was later to be known. Because San Francisco had obtained a mint, Nevada boosters demanded the same for their part of the country. The Nevada territorial representative in Congress was so persuasive that the House of Representatives asked Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase for his opinion.

Chase passed the buck to Mint Director James Pollock. From his office in the Philadelphia Mint, Pollock wrote a letter to Chase condemning the idea from every possible angle. Pollock believed that the San Francisco Mint could handle the coinage requirements for California and Nevada with ease.

Abraham Curry

One of the Nevada individuals who helped push the mint idea was a high official of the territorial government, Orion Clemens. He would be long forgotten today if it was not for his brother, who worked in the office for a short time: Samuel L. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain to later generations.

In early March 1863, proponents of the Nevada Mint slipped an authorization into law by a clever parliamentary procedure before anybody quite realized what had happened. At first little was done, but later the Treasury sent H.P. Bennett to scout the territory for a mint site. Bennett visited Carson City and met Abraham Curry, a one-man chamber of commerce. Curry was so enthusiastic that Bennett recommended Carson City get the mint.

Bennett's report was accepted, and the Treasury appointed three commissioners from Carson City to choose a location and oversee construction: Abraham Curry, John Mills, and Henry Rice. In December 1865, after the site had been picked, Curry resigned from the commission and reappeared as contractor Curry.

The energetic Curry saw that construction went quickly and by the spring of

continued on page 16

continued from page 14

1870-CC double eagle

(Images courtesy Stack's/Bowers)

1870-CC quarter dollar

(Images courtesy Stack's/Bowers)

1868 the building was nearly finished, leaving only the interior work yet to do. Curry now pulled the right political strings and was appointed superintendent of the new branch mint! It was an amazing series of transformations: booster, commissioner, contractor, and now superintendent.

By the fall of 1869, after the installation of machinery and other equipment, Curry felt that he was ready for coinage and asked Mint Director Pollock to send the necessary dies, to be dated 1869. (There was only one coining press, but it would prove sufficient for the needs of Carson City through 1875.) The dies were sent out and received by Curry in mid-October.

There was no coinage in 1869, however, two of the key officers (the assayer and melter & refiner) refused to show up in Carson City and begin their work. Despite every effort to persuade the men, in the end replacements had to be found and this meant several weeks of delay. In early January 1870, Curry was finally able to open the Carson City Mint to deposits of gold and silver.

The dies of 1870 arrived a few days after the Mint opened and the first coinage, 2,203 silver dollars, was executed on February 10; all of the dollars were paid to a depositor named A. Wright, who may have been a Mint employee acting for several different people. The local newspaper was ecstatic over the new coinage, as might be expected from home-town boosters.

A few days later, on February 15, the coiner delivered the first gold, all in ten-dollar pieces (eagles). Half eagles came on March 1 and double eagles on March 10. For silver the first delivery of half dollars came on April 9 while quarter dollars first saw the light of day on April 20. Dimes were not coined in 1870.

Once the early impediments had been removed, coinage flowed rather smoothly from the single coining press. In September 1870, Abe Curry resigned as superintendent because he planned to run for lieutenant governor in the election. He lost, but did not return to the Mint, his place being taken by Henry Rice, another of the commissioners from the mid–1860s.

One of the more curious incidents occurred in early 1872. Superintendent Rice told the local newspaper that the dies for 1872 were late so he had to borrow obverses from San Francisco. Those dies were then used to strike one side of the coin. When the reverse dies finally arrived carrying the CC mintmark, the other side was struck. The story, unfortunately, is nonsense as it is not possible to strike one side of a coin at a time.

It seems likely that Rice manufactured this account to cover up that he had used dies of 1871 in 1872, which was not supposed to be done. Moreover, if he had borrowed obverse (dated) dies from San Francisco, there were reverse dies on hand at Carson City with the correct mintmark. The records of this mint were destroyed long ago, so we may never know the truth behind the curious story of one-sided coins.

The new mint law of February 1873 took effect at the beginning of April. It did not concern the gold coinage, as

1870–CC silver dollar

(Images courtesy of Heritage Auctions www.ha.com)